

# Sen. Javier Souto

Miami-Dade County Commissioner • District 10



*“Let’s be proud of our community, let’s keep it safe and clean.”*

*Dear Neighbor:*

As your elected County Commissioner, I would like to inform you about the issues that we are working on and our major accomplishments for 2004. I am one of two county commissioners whose district is fully unincorporated. This means that I have to represent my district not only on a countywide level on important issues like making certain that we have the best public hospital in the nation to provide all our residents, poor and rich alike, with the best physicians and best medical care available; and that we have a mass transit system that provides all of our residents from the elderly and poor, to individuals who use buses and the Metrorail to commute to their jobs with an affordable, efficient and timely mode of transportation. I also provide the municipal services and improvements that in other county commission districts are provided by the city mayors and city commissioners. This dual role of serving my district on a countywide level and at the same time insuring that communities like Westchester, Kendall, Fontainebleau, Kendale Lakes, Calusa, Winston Park, The Kenlands Royale Green and Village Green receive excellent municipal services and their fair share of infrastructure improvements is very difficult. However, I relish taking older neighborhoods that were built as early as the 1950s and providing them with drainage improvements, newly resurfaced roads, landscaping, sidewalks, bicycle paths and newly refurbished park and recreation facilities. My job is to protect my constituents’ tax dollar by making certain that the services provided by the Miami Dade County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Solid Waste Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department and all other County agencies are better than those provided by any city in our County or in our State, while keeping the tax burden as low as possible.

The illumination of the walking paths at Blue Lakes Park and Southern Estate Parks were completed this year. The installation of lights for the walkway and shelter at Royale Green Park, which I funded, should begin shortly. We have also purchased a new toddler playground for Francisco Human Rights Park (West Dade Regional Library), which was recently installed. In May of 2005, the Parks Department will begin construction of the West Kendale Lakes Park, using almost \$400,000 in Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program (QNIP) dollars, which I earmarked for this project. The newly developed neighborhood park will include a baseball field, a playground for toddlers and small children, an illuminated walking path, landscaping, benches and tables, and a park sign. I have also secured an additional \$4 million for projects and improvements in the neighborhood parks in my district, which will allow me to meet the needs of the residents of my district.

In addition to the recently completed improvements at Southern Estates Park, I have funded several improvement for the Village Green community. A new mini-park has been completed at Bird Road and approximately 119th Avenue next to the canal. I invite neighbors to use the park for family picnics or gatherings. There are picnic tables and the mini-park is illuminated. I also earmarked District 10 funds from the half penny transit tax to construct traffic circles along roads in the Village Green neighborhood, where speeding has been a problem.

Traffic circles help discourage drivers from using residential streets as cut-through routes by reducing traffic speeds and the wide open appearance of a street, which is a very common problem in Village Green. In the past couple of years, we have invested \$3,500,000 in neighborhood drainage improvements and funded the dredging of the Southern Estates canal in Village Green to reduce any potential flooding in the future.

Among the projects we were able to complete are: street resurfacing in the Kenlands community; drainage improvements and resurfacing of the roads in Royale Green; drainage improvements throughout Westchester; new sidewalks in the neighborhood north of St. Brendan Church and School; sidewalks and road resurfacing in the area of S.W. 97th Avenue to 102nd Avenue from Coral Way to Tamiami Trail; drainage improvements and road resurfacing in Winston Park; drainage improvements in Westwood Lakes; and drainage improvements and road resurfacing in Horse Country. Earlier this year we installed new sidewalks, driveway aprons and grassy drainage swales along S.W. 117th Avenue between Coral Way and Bird Road at a project cost of \$100,000. In spite of the fact that over the past few years, I have secured more than \$25 million in QNIP funding for sidewalks, road resurfacing and parks projects, there never seems to be enough funds to meet all the needs. I have good news, I earmarked an additional \$12 million for new sidewalks in my district.

The expansion of SW 97th Avenue is now complete, except for the bridge on SW 16th Street where the support pilings had to be redesigned. Work continues, however the contractor has been paying the County daily penalties for delaying the project. I am working with the County Attorney to devise a mechanism for re-investing the penalty monies for the benefit of the residents impacted by the construction delays. I welcome any suggestions you may have for use of these penalty monies. We have completed major drainage improvements on Coral Way and the Coral Way road expansion project will soon be completed. I apologize to the residents and merchants in that area for the inconvenience the construction may have caused. I am also working with the County Public Works Department and the Florida Department of Transportation on a plan to provide some aesthetic beauty and landscaping to Bird Road, which was stripped of canopy and green area when the road was widened to six lanes several years ago.

I will continue to work with you to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood and to protect your property values. Let’s keep on working together towards these goals. Please help me in my quest of bringing the best quality of life possible to our district. I am here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Senator Javier Souto  
[javiersouto@miamidade.gov](mailto:javiersouto@miamidade.gov)



Commissioner Javier Souto,  
Chairman Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee  
(Parks - Libraries - Museums)

## COMMISSIONER JAVIER SOUTO TARGETS DRUNK DRIVERS

The Board of County Commissioners adopted a new measure, sponsored by Commissioner Javier Souto, aimed at reducing the number of drunk drivers on the streets of Miami-Dade County. The new law mandates that the owner or operator of any store selling alcoholic beverages shall prominently post on the outside of the display case, cooler or barrel containing alcoholic beverages a sign at least 11 inches by 17 inches in size, stating the following:

**IT IS UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS AN OPEN CONTAINER OF ALCOHOL WHILE DRIVING OR RIDING IN A MOTOR VEHICLE. DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL IS UNLAWFUL. VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE ARREST AND IMPOUNDMENT OF THEIR VEHICLE.**

**REMEMBER: JUST ONE BOTTLE OF BEER OR OTHER ALCOHOLIC DRINK COULD LAND YOU IN JAIL!**

The law requires that the signs be posted in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Failure by any gas station, convenience store, package store or other establishment selling beer or alcoholic beverage to post these new signs shall result in a \$500 fine. Since this is a new law, establishments shall initially be given a warning for failing to post these signs and fined for any subsequent offense.

While these signs may not discourage an alcoholic from drinking and getting behind the wheel of a car, it should discourage the average reasonable person from grabbing a beer or

wine cooler after work or after a ball game and getting behind the wheel of his or her car. It is important that all people realize that the act of just having an open can of beer or broken seal on a bottle of wine or wine cooler is illegal, regardless of the driver's blood alcohol level.

According to statistics compiled by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), 1276 people were killed in crashes involving alcohol in Florida in 2002. This accounts for 41% of all traffic related deaths in Florida that year. Most disturbing is a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that found that 2,335 children died in car crashes involving drinking drivers between 1997 and 2002, and of those children killed, 68 percent were riding in the car with a drinking driver.

Gas stations, convenience stores, package stores or other establishments selling beer or alcoholic beverages are already required to post warning signs on the outside of each entrance and on the inside of the main customer exit letting the patrons know that they can be arrested for drinking their beer or wine within 100 feet of the parking lot. This new law will let the patrons know that they can also be arrested for cracking open the beer or wine bottle as soon as they drive away from the store. I walk throughout my district every day, and I can tell you that every single day I collect dozens of beer cans and beer bottles along the road. This tells me that we are not dealing with a handful of alcoholics drinking and driving in our community, as is commonly perceived, but rather with an endemic problem including thousands of motorists throughout our community who feel it is okay to drink alcohol while sitting behind the wheel of their motor vehicle on a hot summer day. Hopefully with the new signs, they will think twice about drinking that beer before they get to their destination. If we can convince one person that the expense and humiliation of jail time is not worth the risk, then this law is well worth it. This new measure has the potential of saving many lives and preventing many injuries.

## COUNTY COMMISSION ADOPTS PATRIOT PASSPORT PROGRAM WHICH ALLOWS MILITARY VETERANS TO RIDE COUNTY BUSES & METRORAIL FOR FREE

The Board of County Commissioners adopted legislation proposed by Miami-Dade Commissioner Javier Souto creating the Miami-Dade Transit Patriot Passport Program. Miami-Dade County residents who are honorably discharged military veterans and whose household income does not exceed \$22,000 annually will be eligible for the Patriot Passport, which allows them to use the County's transit services for free. The Patriot Passport program recognizes the contributions of Miami-Dade County residents who have served this nation and the cause of freedom with distinction through their service in the armed forces. It is absolutely disgraceful that we have many impoverished

military veterans living in this community who have shed their blood fighting for our country and are not eligible for free transportation to take them to the Veterans Administration Hospital for medical treatment or to a place of employment. Veterans age 65 or older were already eligible for free transit services under the Golden Passport Program, but low income military veterans under 65 years of age fell through the cracks. Eligible veterans can apply for the Patriot Passport at the Government Center Metrorail Station or any Team Metro office.



# COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAVIER SOUTO CHANGES LAWS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS WHO RECEIVE EXPENSIVE WATER BILLS CAUSED BY UNDETECTED LEAKS

On September 21, 2004, the Board of County Commissioners adopted legislation sponsored by Commissioner Javier Souto that protects consumers who receive expensive water bills caused by undetected water leaks. The new regulations will grant every resident of Miami-Dade County who uses the services of the Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department a one-time lifetime adjustment to their quarterly bill in the event of a concealed or hidden leak that results in an unusually high water bill. In order to qualify for the adjustment, the customer shall be required to make the necessary repairs to the leak. A corrected bill shall be issued which shall be based either on the previous year's average consumption or on the rate of consumption after the repair has been made.

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department has thousands of customers who are poor, retired and living on fixed incomes, as well as working class people who live from pay check to pay check and cannot afford to pay thousands of dollars for an exorbitant water bill resulting from an undetected leak from a water pipe, faulty toilet or other plumbing related problem. Water leaks may be caused by conditions not under the control of the property owner such as damage from tree roots or leaks caused by defective products.

Commissioner Souto became aware that the County's system could unfairly punish a customer with an undetected leak when a constituent approached him after receiving a quarterly water bill that exceeded \$8,000. The constituent was a working mother earning her wages from tips at a local restaurant, and she could not afford to pay a water bill that almost exceeded her annual income. The outrageous bill was due to ruptured underground water pipes damaged by the roots of her neighbor's tree.

Under the current water billing system, the customer may only learn of a potential leak upon receipt of their quarterly bill, which can exceed \$8,000 to \$10,000 by the time the customer receives notice of the irregular water consumption. Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's rules and regulations for water and sewer service previously provided for, in some circumstances, only a 50-percent credit for water bills and a 100-percent credit for sewer bills, which can still cost the customer thousands of dollars for an undetected leak. In the case of the customer with the \$8,000 water bill, under the old system the water bill was reduced to approximately \$2,500, which was still a substantial amount for a water leak caused by her neighbor's tree.

Commissioner Souto felt that the previous system was unfair because the Water and Sewer Department has the ability to measure the flow of water through its meters and detect any unusual consumption rates. Furthermore, the volume of wasted water and the ultimate cost to the unsuspecting customer can be mitigated and reduced substantially if the water bill is mailed to the customer on a monthly basis instead of quarterly, saving the Department and the customer up to two months of wasted water.

Commissioner Souto worked with William Brant, Director of the Water & Sewer Department, to come up with a fair solution to the problem. Brant acknowledged that the previous system was unfair to unsuspecting customers with a concealed leak. Many changes in law are a direct result of a person who becomes victim to an unfair system and brings the flaw in the system to the attention of his or her elected representative in government.



Commissioner Javier Souto and volunteers from his office, Team Metro West Office, the Greater Miami Service Corps, and a small group of Royale Green residents participated in a project to paint the one and a half mile long community wall that surrounds the Royale Green neighborhood. Commissioner Souto will also be using office funds to purchase new "Royale Green" community signs. Since Royale Green was incorporated into Commissioner Souto's district in 2002, he has invested \$1,131,000 for drainage improvements in Royale Green to reduce any potential for flooding in the future. He invested \$1,028,000 to resurface the roads in Royale Green because he discovered hundreds of potholes and a road surface that was severely deteriorated in many areas.



The Commissioner meets with small business owners from his district who were awarded grants through Miami-Dade County's Mom & Pop Small Business Program. \$100,000 in small business grants were awarded to businesses throughout Commissioner Souto's District in amount of \$5,000 that were used by the businesses to purchase office equipment, inventory, advertising and other business needs. New grants will be available this year for small businesses in District 10.



Commissioner Javier Souto sponsored legislation directing the County Manager to design, with the help of the Miami Dade County Public Works Department, a standardized "No Littering" sign, which is now the official anti-litter sign for all County roads and public right-of-ways. Commissioner Souto also purchased and installed approximately 50 anti-litter signs in the major roads in his district. Commissioner Javier Souto is joined by Aristides Rivera - Director of Public Works Department, Esther Calas - Assistant Director Public Works Department, and Joaquín Urréchaga - Chief Traffic Signals & Signs Division of the Public Works Department who helped him design and bring these new signs to his district.



Miami-Dade County Transit Director Roosevelt Bradley, Commissioner Javier Souto and Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle recognize Shantal Saenz who won first prize in designing the new logo for the Coral Way Max Express Bus Service and Javier Martinez, who was the runner-up in the design competition. Shantal's designed logo will appear at all the bus stops along Coral Way where transit riders can board the Coral Way Max Express Service.



Continuing in his efforts to improve the safety of Miami-Dade County's streets and roadways, Commissioner Javier Souto unveiled on October 18 the first of Miami-Dade County's new illuminated street signs at the corner of Bird Road (S.W. 40th Street) and 102nd Avenue. After Commissioner Souto learned about illuminated street signs throughout Broward County and Tallahassee almost three years ago, he looked into the feasibility of installing illuminated signs in Miami-Dade County. After seeking assistance from County Manager George Burgess, Public Works Department Director Aristides Rivera, members of the County's Citizens Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) and officials from the Florida Department of Transportation, the signs have become a reality. This first sign will assist the County in determining which type of technology is best for these illuminated signs.



Commissioner Javier Souto is joined by Esther Calas - Assistant Director Public Works Department, Joaquín Urréchaga - Chief Traffic Signals & Signs Division of the Public Works Department, and Aristides Rivera - Director of Public Works Department, as the first newly designed school signs are installed near Banyan Elementary School. All the school signs for all the elementary schools, middle schools and high schools in Commissioner Souto's district have been replaced with new highly flourescent signs, which improve the safety of the school zones in his district. These new flourescent signs will soon be installed around all the parks in Commissioner Souto's district. The Commissioner earmarked \$100,000 in funding to install these new signs throughout his district, after seeing the more reflective safety signs in Broward County.



Commissioner Souto addresses the audience at the inauguration of the newly refurbished Tropical Park Boxing Gym. Commissioner Souto secured \$2 million for Construction of a brand new Boxing Center at Tropical Park, which will be built right next to the existing gym and will include three competition size rings with an area for audience seating.

## SAFETY IMPROVES IN WESTCHESTER WITH FIRST TRAFFIC CIRCLES



Commissioner Javier Souto and Major Victor Ramirez, Miami-Dade Police Department Kendall District, stand on the newly constructed traffic circles on S.W. 82nd Avenue and 48th Street.

The Miami-Dade County Public Works Department completed the construction of two new traffic circles along SW 82nd Avenue (Heroes of September 11th Avenue) at the request of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto. One traffic circle was constructed at S.W. 82nd Avenue at 48th Street and the other at 44th Street. Traffic circles are raised islands placed in intersections around which traffic circulates. These are the first traffic circles ever installed in the community of Westchester for traffic calming purposes. These traffic circles were designed with a low profile curbing and without landscaping to preserve reasonable emergency vehicle ingress/egress around or through the circles in the case of larger fire trucks.

The project also included the opening of Southwest 82nd Avenue between Southwest 45th Street and 44th Street a half block dead end that existed along this main "collector" road for many years until residents living north of 44th Street requested that the road be opened to traffic. The Public Works Department also added a lane to a very dangerous one lane stretch of 82nd Avenue that forced vehicles to pull off the road when there was a car traveling in the opposite direction. The project was completed in record time 53 days, thanks to the efforts of Miami-Dade Public Works Director Aristides Rivera and the excellent work of T. J. Paving Corp., the contractor for the project.

This is not the first use of traffic circles in Commissioner Souto's district. In 1996, following the death of a teenage boy in the Kendall community of Winston Park, Commissioner Souto requested that the Public Works Department devise traffic calming measures near the community's club house and the Winston Park Elementary School. The road calming techniques designed and completed by the Public Works Department on S.W. 132nd Avenue in Winston Park the following year included narrowing the road at certain points to reduce traffic speed and the installation of the first two traffic circles in unincorporated Miami-Dade County for traffic calming purposes.

The major difference between traffic calming measures and other forms of traffic control devices such as stop signs and speed limit signs, which require enforcement, is that traffic calming measures are self-enforcing.

Traffic calming techniques, such as traffic circles, restore or maintain the quality of a neighborhood by mitigating the impact of vehicular traffic on residential neighborhoods. Traffic circles promote conditions that provide safe neighborhoods for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and residents of the neighborhood, while maintaining vehicular access to the neighborhood. Traffic circles are very effective in moderating speeds and improving safety. Traffic circles can also decrease a street's appeal as a cut- through route for drivers because they reduce traffic speeds and the wide open appearance of a street, which is a very common problem in my district. If designed well, they can have positive aesthetic value; and when placed at an intersection, they can calm two streets at once. In summary, they simply improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, traffic circles reduce motor vehicle crashes. The Institute's July 2001 Status Report noted that the most serious kinds of crashes at conventional intersections are virtually eliminated by modern traffic circles. Furthermore, crashes that do occur tend to be minor because traffic speeds are slower. The study reviewed 24 intersections around the U.S. that have been converted from stop signs or traffic signals to modern traffic circles. At those intersections, all crashes were reduced by 39%. Serious crashes were reduced by 76%. At the time of the study, there had been no fatalities at any of the new traffic circles. So, the study estimates that fatal or incapacitating injuries will be reduced by 90% at those intersections. The significant reduction in accidents attributable to traffic circles demonstrates that they pay for themselves many times over in reduced accident costs.

Commissioner Souto is currently working with the Public Works Department to identify several locations in the community of Village Green where traffic circles can be installed. There are many roads in Village Green with long stretches that lend themselves to speeding and where "Stop" signs would not work, but these traffic circles could calm the neighborhood traffic. Commissioner Souto is a true believer in traffic calming road improvements and he will be using traffic calming techniques throughout his district.



# Highlights of Commissioner Souto’s Efforts to Improve Our Neighborhoods

## WESTCHESTER

\$28,823,000 Drainage Improvements (Southern Westchester SW 77 Ave. to 117 Ave. from 24 St. to 40 St.)  
\$650,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 8 Street to SW 24 Street & SW 80 Avenue to SW 87 Avenue)  
\$363,000 Sidewalks (SW 92 Ave. to 87 Ave & 24 St. to 32 St.)  
\$1,000,000 Sidewalks, Curb & Gutters (SW 92 Ave. to 97 Ave & 24 St. to 8 St.)  
\$342,000 Road Resurfacing & Sidewalk Replacement (SW 97 Ave. to 102 Ave & 24 St. to 8 St.)  
\$312,500 Drainage Project (SW 97th Avenue from 8 Street to Flagler Street)  
\$250,000 Drainage Project (SW 97 Avenue to 102 Avenue & Flagler Street to 4 Street)  
\$100,000 Francisco Human Rights Park at West Dade Regional Library - Replace Toddler Playground  
\$50,000 Pre-Design of 30,000 Sq. Ft. Indoor Basketball and Gymnastics Center at Tamiami Park.  
\$38,000 Illumination of SW 114th Avenue from 32 Street to 40 Street.  
\$100,000 Sidewalks, Grass Swales and Driveway Aprons on SW 117th Avenue from 32 St. to SW 24 St.  
\$1,800,000 Landscaping SW 117th Avenue including canal banks from SW 88th St. to SW 8th Street.  
\$1,200,000 Landscaping Bird Road from SW 117th Avenue to SW 67th Avenue  
\$600,000 Landscaping SW 87th Avenue from SW 8 Street to SW 88 Street  
\$500,000 Landscaping Coral Way from SW 122 Avenue to SW 67th Avenue.  
\$3,000,000 Secured for construction of a Westchester Theater of the Performing Arts and Cultural Center at Tamiami Park.

## WESTWOOD LAKES, MILLER HEIGHTS, BLUE LAKES, LAKE PARK, TROPICAL ESTATES, LAKE CATALINA NEIGHBORHOODS

\$10,000,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 40 Street to SW 56 Street & 112 Avenue to 82 Avenue)  
\$5,147,000 Drainage Improvements (Westwood Lakes Neighborhood SW 40 St. to 56 St. & 112 Ave. to 117 Ave.)  
\$12,000,000 Resurfacing of Roads (From SW 82 Ave. to 117th Ave. from SW 56 St. to SW 40th St.)  
\$56,000 Drainage Project (SW 97 Avenue & 40th Terrace)  
\$170,000 Blue Lakes Park Illuminated Walking Path  
\$3,600,000 Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center at Tropical Park Phase 1  
\$250,000 Skating Park at Tropical Park  
\$200,000 in this year's budget for continuing the enhanced police patrolling (mounted horse patrol, bicycle patrol, regular patrol and undercover surveillance) of Tropical Park.  
\$40,000 Paving and Drainage, Western Swale of Riviera Middle School (SW 104 Ave. from 48 St. to 45 St.)  
\$10,000,000 Secured for the final phase of the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center at Tropical Park.  
\$2,000,000 Secured for construction of a brand new Boxing Center at Tropical Park.

## ROYALE GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD

\$1,028,000 Royale Green Road Resurfacing Project (SW 42 St. to 56 St. & 127 Ave. to 132 Ave.)  
\$1,131,000 Drainage Improvements Royale Green Neighborhood (SW 127 Ave. to 132 Ave. & 42 St. to 56 St.)  
\$146,000 Illuminate Royale Green Park Walking Path and Park. (Construction end of 2004 - Early 2005)

## McMILLAN NEIGHBORHOOD

\$191,000 Improvements and Expansion of McMillan Park (Construction to Begin 2005)

## HORSE COUNTRY NEIGHBORHOOD

\$1,550,000 Drainage Improvements (Horse Country)  
\$696,000 Horse Country Road Resurfacing Project (SW 42 St. to 72 St. & 117 Ave. to 127 Ave.)

## WINSTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

\$925,000 Winston Park Road Resurfacing Project (SW 72 St. to 88 St. & 127 Ave. to 137 Ave.)  
\$9,847,000 Winston Park Drainage Improvements Project (SW 72 St. to 88 St. & 127 Ave. to 137 Ave.)

## VILLAGE GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD

\$3,000,000 Drainage Improvements (Village Green Neighborhood SW 118 Ave. to 127 Ave. from 24 St. to 40 St.)  
\$150,000 Construction of Illuminated Walking Path and Illumination of Park.  
\$41,000 Construction of Meditation Park on Bird Road and 119th Avenue.

## KENLANDS

\$790,000 Kenlands Road Resurfacing Project (SW 88 St. to 104 St. & 117 Ave. to 127 Ave.)

## KENDALL NEIGHBORHOODS

\$1,550,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 56 Street to SW 72 Street from 117 Avenue to 109 Court)  
\$650,000 Resurfacing Roads (SW 88 Street to SW 104 Street and from SW 118th Ave. to 127th Ave.)  
\$60,000 Landscaping (SW 122 Avenue from SW 104 Street to 88 Street.)  
\$231,000 Drainage Improvements (SW 122 Avenue from SW 94 Street to 100 Street)  
\$1,600,000 Kendall Soccer Park Phase 1  
\$2,150,000 Kendall Soccer Park Phase 2 (Completion of Remaining Soccer Fields)  
\$2,100,000 Resurfacing all Roads Kings Creek  
\$2,400,000 Drainage Improvements Kings Creek  
\$400,000 Sunset Park Refurbishment  
\$1,800,000 Resurfacing Sunkist Estates  
\$1,300,000 Installation of County Water System at Sunkist Estates to Replace Contaminated Wells

## KENDALE LAKES

\$400,000 West Kendale Lakes Park Development

## LUDLAM AREA

\$3,800,000 Drainage Improvements in Ludlam Area (SW 67th Ave. to 76th Ave. from SW 40th St. to 56 St.)

## WATERWAY DRIVE AREA & A.D. BARNES PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

\$1,000,000 Landscaping SW 72 Ave. from Bird Road to Coral Way & Waterway Drive Industrial area.  
\$650,000 Sidewalks Improvements (SW 72 Ave. to Palmetto Expressway and from Bird Road to Waterway Drive)

# The Citizen Wins "Major Finished Projects"

- Secured over \$65 million in federal monies for 690 drainage projects in his District.
- Secured over \$25 million in Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program funding for sidewalks, road resurfacing, and parks projects in his Commission District.
- Secured \$38.7 million in canal dredging projects that will increase the stormwater flow of canals in his district and further protect our community from flooding.
- Renamed the Tropical Park Equestrian Center as the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center.
- Created the Social & Economic Development Council, a think tank of economists and college professors, who will develop short and long term plans to reinvigorate economic development in Miami-Dade County.
- Sponsored legislation to improve security at our sensitive Water and Sewer facilities.
- Sponsored legislation creating an official Anti Litter sign for Miami Dade County and earmarked \$30,000 for installation of Anti Litter signs in District 10.
- Sponsored legislation to protect commercial corridors.
- Mandated that the County Manager use zero-based budgeting tools and performance based program reviews.
- Obtained Over 100 Litter Cans for Bus Stops for District 10.
- Passed law mandating commercial establishments to place litter cans near entrances.
- Passed law requiring commercial establishments to install bike racks.
- Created the Bikes on Buses and Bikes on Metrorail Programs.
- Initiated the "Stolen Car Detection & Criminal Profile Program" at Seaport.
- Obtained street sweeper trucks to clean Dade's streets.
- Secured County property earmarked for development as Low Income High Density Apartments for use as Soccer Park in Kendall.
- Purchased "Welcome to Westchester" and the "Welcome to Kendall" signs.
- Created the "Golden Guide to the Dade County Code" & "Resident Guide to Local Services."
- Closed down two night clubs that were havens for drugs and prostitution & Closed down all lingerie modeling studios and massage parlors in district.

- Obtained a state grant to landscape the Palmetto (SR 826) & Landscaped over 80 Miles of District Roads.
- Appropriated \$12,400 in funding to the Kendall Federation of Homeowners for the purchase of traffic radar devices.
- Created "Friends of the Metro Parks" program which was used to refurbish Sunset Park through Private Sector donations.
- Created "Friends of the Police" program which was used to open a privately funded police work station on Bird Road.
- Obtained playgrounds for toddlers (tot lots) for Banyan Elementary School, Concord Park, Southern Estates Park in Village Green, and Sunset Park.
- Established an "Adopt-A-Road" program to permit local organizations and private corporations to beautify roads.
- Provided the Mildred Pepper Senior Center with \$150,000 to purchase new air-conditioned buses for senior citizens.
- Drafted laws prohibiting noises that disturb the tranquility of residential communities.
- Sponsored Laws to eliminate illegal sexual activity in adult book stores and to protect residential communities, schools and parks from adult establishments.
- Directed the County Manager to develop a system of filtering pornography from library computers accessible to unsupervised minors.
- Paved over 12 square miles of roads in district.
- Reformed County jail food service practices that millions of dollars on jail inmates.
- Drafted laws that require all cash registers in Dade County to have a screen visible to consumers, so they can see their merchandise transaction as it is charged.
- Secured \$350,000 for Outdoor Emergency Call Boxes at County parks to improve safety.
- Initiated Mini Urban Forrest Program to reclaim abandoned vacant lots and strips of land and landscape them with trees which are adopted and maintained by neighboring schools.

## Commissioner Souto Proposes New Safety Measures for Child Care Facilities



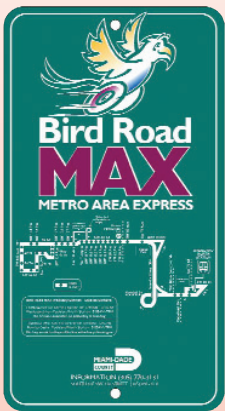
Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto sponsored an ordinance that prohibits any new child care facility from having its playground or play area located next to a main road. The law also requires any existing child care facility located next to a main road to move its playgrounds within the next two years. Where geographical constraints make it impossible to relocate the playground, the facility will be required to install a safety barrier from vehicular traffic designed by a professional engineer and approved by the County's Public Works Department. The reinforced concrete block wall or guard-rail shall be strong enough to prevent a

motor vehicle from entering the play area and potentially injuring or killing a child.

You can drive throughout Miami-Dade County and see numerous child care facilities or nurseries with tot lots or playgrounds for small children right next to major arteries and it makes you wonder how these facilities were ever approved. With the volume of cars and trucks traveling at high rates of speed along these major roads, it takes one collision, one vehicle hydroplaning on a wet road or one drunk driver to careen right into these play areas that for the most part have only a chain-link fence separating the children from the road. It would be very tragic if a vehicle were to crash into the playground and kill a small child, particularly when this type of tragedy is preventable if the operator of the facility or the local government takes proper measures. Common sense dictates that the proper location for these playgrounds is behind the building and away from any main road, and yet there are hundreds of playgrounds throughout Miami-Dade County that do not meet this minimal safety standard.

## New Signs for Express Transit Services Providing District 10 Residents With Options to Overcome Traffic Congestion

The two logos depicted above were designed by school children residing in Commission District 10. These logos identify the Bird Road MAX and the Coral Way MAX respectively and can be found at all the bus stops along both roads, where riders can catch the MAX. The Bird Road MAX mini-bus system begins at SW 147 Avenue and provides express service along SW 40 Street for the residents of Westchester, Village Green, Royal Green and Horse Country to select destinations like Tropical Park, Baptist Hospital, Dadeland Mall and the Dadeland North Metrorail Station. This allows riders to use Metrorail to access downtown Miami, the Miami Dade County Government Center, the University of Miami, and Jackson Memorial Hospital. The Coral Way MAX mini-bus system begins at SW 152



Avenue and provides express service along SW 24 Street for the residents of Westchester and Village Green to Coral Gables, Miracle Mile, Coral Gables Hospital and then links with Metrorail at the Douglas Road Station. The service has been a tremendous success. Commissioner Souto who brought both these new services to provide better mass transit services to the residents of his district, urges everyone to use this new service. Feel free to let him know how it can be improved.





Sen. Javier Souto  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner • District 10

MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY

"Let's be proud of our community, let's keep it safe and clean."

**Downtown Office:**  
111 N.W. 1st Street  
Suite 320  
Miami, FL 33128  
Phone: 305-375-4835  
Fax: 305-375-3456

**javiersouto@miamidade.gov**  
Office Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.

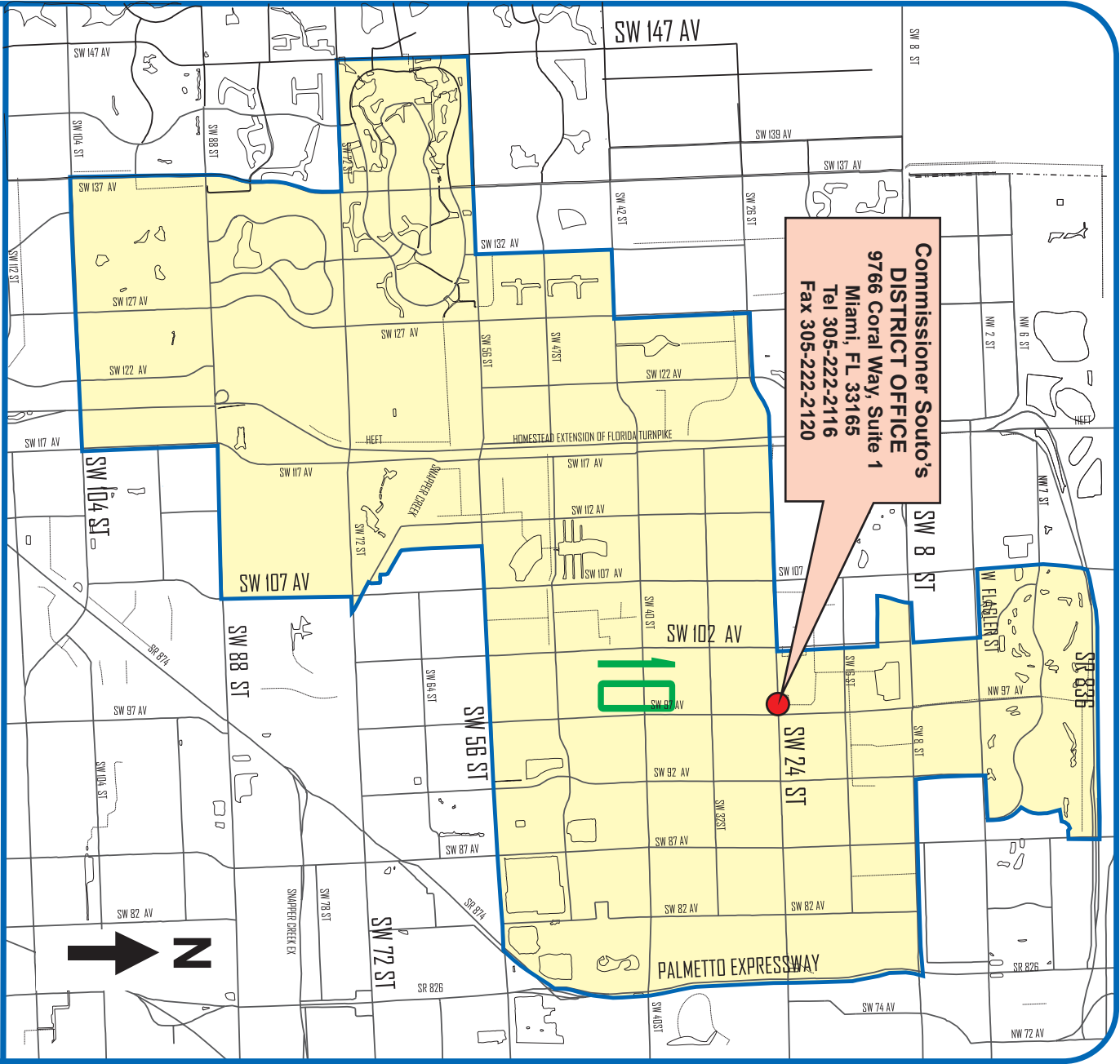


**District Office:**  
9766 Coral Way, Suite 1  
Miami, FL 33165  
Phone: 305-222-2116  
Fax: 305-222-2120  
Office Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.



**Don't toss it out.  
Toss it in.**

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
Commission District 10



**Commissioner Souto's  
DISTRICT OFFICE**  
9766 Coral Way, Suite 1  
Miami, FL 33165  
Tel 305-222-2116  
Fax 305-222-2120

**Participate in Monthly Town Meetings**

Commissioner Souto holds two monthly town meetings, which offer residents the opportunity to meet with him and voice their concerns regarding neighborhood problems. He invites top ranking government officials from the Police, Public Works, Solid Waste, Parks, Building & Zoning, Emergency Management & Hurricane Preparedness, Team Metro and other departments and agencies. This gives you a forum to learn about your government and obtain resolutions to problems in your neighborhood. Don't miss this opportunity! Everyone is invited.

**Westchester Town Meetings**

Second Thursday of Month  
(Except on Holidays & August Recess)  
West Dade Regional Library  
9445 Coral Way (2nd Floor)  
Time: 7:00 PM

**Kendall Town Meetings**

Fourth Thursday of Month  
(Except on Holidays & August Recess)  
Winston Park Club House  
8100 S.W. 132nd Avenue  
Time: 7:00 PM